



1998 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Jeffrey L. Hutchinson

For his abilities and willingness to step forward as a leader. His leadership promotes teamwork and cooperation as well as instilling confidence and pride in fellow officers. He is regarded as the “go-to-guy” when information is needed on a suspect or a vehicle. He demonstrates sophisticated skill in developing strategies and problem solving and continually develops new techniques and alternatives in an effort to increase productivity among the officers he coaches and mentors.

HONORABLE MENTION

Officer Jon Sherwood

For his outstanding performance reflected in medals of commendation and thank you letters, as well as winning an individual national K-9 championship for the Saint Paul Police Department in 1998. He has been a consistently solid performer, striving for excellence and setting an enviable standard. In the last year alone, he has received no less than two commendations for off duty arrests. In one case, he arrested suspects and recovered and auto before it was reported stolen and on another instance arrested a suspect in the act of a commercial break-in.

Officer Richard Straka

For his achievements as a member of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. In addition to an exceptional number of arrests for major crimes and the recovery of numerous stolen guns, he has become a foremost authority on Minnesota Hmong street gangs and is in demand from law enforcement agencies nationwide. His work as a street cop and as a gang investigator have earned him both the respect and the trust of the Hmong community. He is motivated out of a genuine concern for the community and his belief that his efforts will make a difference.

HONOREES

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Merit

MARCH Sergeant Patrick D. Kellerman
Officer Michael A. Ardolf
Officer Timothy G. Pinoniemi
Officer Raymond A. Gainey
Officer Peter T. Panos

For developing and implementing an undercover storefront operation targeting street level drug dealers through their use of cellular phones.

Officer David C. Peterson

For dedication to duty and professionalism in apprehending a suspect armed with a handgun without using deadly force though such use would have been appropriate.

Sergeant Patricia T. Englund
Officer Richard W. Straka

For dedication to duty and professionalism while working with Asian gangs in initiating a criminal sexual conduct investigation which led to the identification of numerous victims and the arrest of eight suspects.

JULY Sergeant Charles E. Anderson
Sergeant Neil P. Nelson
Sergeant Richard J. Munoz
Officer Timothy P. Lynaugh

For courage and dedication in effecting the arrest of four murder suspects. The officers were clearly in harm's way. Officer Lynaugh's K-9, Callahan, was shot and killed by one of the suspects.

OCTOBER Nancy J. Smolik

For extraordinary dedication and an invaluable contribution while working endless hours (sometimes around the clock) during the 603/ Six Mob Gangsters murder investigation.

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Commendation

JANUARY Michael J. Johnson

For taking it upon himself to plan, organize and moderate a meeting/training session for employees of the financial institutions in his neighborhood service area. Within two days, one of his students contacted the police department about suspicious account activity. A member of a national fraud conspiracy was arrested and the institution avoided a \$60,000 loss.

Timothy C. Rehak

While working off duty observed some suspicious activity at another business. As he approached, what turned out to be a robber armed with a knife fled on foot. Officer Rehak chased him down and arrested him for that robbery and another robbery attempt.

FEBRUARY James S. Campbell

For creating and working a Community Policing Beat in the St. Anthony Park area. His efforts are deeply appreciated by a community that he has helped feel safer.

Officer Todd R. Feroni
Officer Steven K. Bystrom
Officer Daniel J. Zebro

For their efforts in attempting to revive a baby that had stopped breathing and then consoling the family while preserving the scene as a potential crime scene.

MARCH Officer Theresa L. Spencer
Officer Kevin L. Casper

While investigating a shooting, the officers were able to identify a potential suspect by recalling telephone numbers from the victim's caller ID. Subsequently the information developed led to additional suspects being identified, resulting in their arrest and prosecution.

Officer Jon M. Grahek
Officer Jennifer L. Meyer

For initiative and commitment to duty in developing information while on an unrelated call which resulted in the identification and arrest of a suspect involved in a robbery.

Officer Jon J. Sherwood

For professionalism and dedication to duty in the off-duty arrest of suspects in an unreported stolen motor vehicle.

continued

HONOREES

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Commendation

APRIL	Telecommunicator Kathleen Jones	<i>For dedication in working with an anonymous and uncooperative caller. By following up on information, she developed specific information allowing officers to locate the victim and release her from her captor.</i>
	Officer Steven J. Parsons Officer James R. Falkowski	<i>For apprehending four suspects in a series of ongoing armed robberies. Their actions ended a brief but dangerous situation.</i>
	Officer Catherine C. Pavlak	<i>For the apprehension of a suspect in a home invasion which resulted in the death of one victim and the assault of another. Officer Pavlak's persistence and determination brought this incident to the desired conclusion and successful prosecution of the suspect.</i>
MAY	Officer Andrew H. Shoemaker Officer Joel P. Johnston Officer Christopher M. Byrne	<i>For displaying an extraordinary degree of initiative and commitment to duty in resolving a burglary of a fellow officer's home. The officers developed suspect information, located, identified and arrested the suspect.</i>
	Officer David J. Boll Officer Michael W. Bratsch Officer Steven J. Frazer Officer Bryant A. Gaden	<i>While assigned to a Western District task force, using minimal resources, these officers developed and implemented a strategy to attack local street level drug activity. The officers effected 64 arrests, 19 of which were individuals involved in drug trafficking.</i>
JUNE	Officer Steven J. Frazer Officer Timothy S. Flynn	<i>For volunteering to investigate suspicious activity. They immediately realized criminal activity was involved. Information was developed for a search warrant, which led to the arrest of three suspects involved in four residential burglaries.</i>
	Sergeant Michael J. Lofgren	<i>For excellent performance of duty while responding to a call of an irrational woman threatening suicide with a gun. Sergeant Lofgren took control of the scene, developed, directed and implemented a plan and at risk of personal harm, led the entry, gaining control of the victim and her weapon.</i>

continued

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Commendation

JULY	Officer Joseph A. Chaffee	<i>For dedication to duty when after monitoring radio traffic off-duty and reviewing a surveillance video tape, information was gathered that led to an arrest in a robbery.</i>
	Officer Kevin L. Casper	<i>For alertness in investigating occupants of five suspicious vehicles. The final result was 17 recovered guns, which also served as a major break in an out of state gun store burglary.</i>
	Sergeant Bruce B. Wynkoop Sergeant Edward J. Lundholm Officer Steven J. Jabs	<i>For producing order out of chaos after thunderstorms and winds downed trees, power lines and ruptured gas lines in the Highland neighborhood. The areas were secured in an orderly manner until order was restored.</i>
	Clerk-Typist II Carol J. Schwartz	<i>For her self-initiated activity which eventually led to the arrest of four murder suspects.</i>
AUGUST	Sergeant Kenneth W. Reed Sergeant Michael T. Findley Sergeant James M. Charmoli Sergeant Gerard J. Bohlig	<i>For perseverance in investigating a murder. With a minimum of information, 8 members of a gang were arrested, 2 for kidnapping and 6 for murder.</i>
	Officer Michael W. Bratsch	<i>For diligence while assisting in solving a murder. Good communication skills helped establish a rapport with a friend of the suspects. Evidence obtained led to the arrest of three individuals and their subsequent confessions.</i>
	Property Clerk Cheri D. Ward Property Clerk Michael C. Chickett	<i>For good judgment in investigating a burned van that was towed to the Impound Lot. The van proved to be the suspect vehicle and their quick actions saved possible loss of evidence.</i>

continued

HONOREES

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Commendation

SEPTEMBER Officer Michael C. Carter

For initiative and dedication to duty in locating the scene of a rape. He monitored this house until an individual emerged matching the suspects description. Officer Carter effected the arrest of the suspect, along with his accomplice.

Sergeant Stuart C. Burke

For excellent judgment and persistence in recognizing imminent danger to a citizen. While chasing a purse snatch suspect, he re-injured an old foot injury, but persisted. With assistance, the subject was finally taken into custody.

Sergeant John M. Peck

For his tenacity and professionalism in a recent drug investigation. He and his team served several search warrants, conducted interviews and visited several properties. This investigation netted the recovery of \$21,700 in cash, four pounds of methamphetamine, an automatic pistol and arrests of five individuals.

Officer Jon J. Sherwood

For his exemplary work on a commercial break-in. While off duty, he noticed a suspicious individual. Upon further investigation, fresh pry marks were discovered on the door and wall of an east side business. The suspect was identified as being near the building's rear storage area and eventually was charged with attempted burglary.

OCTOBER Sergeant Richard L. Klein

For exceptional dedication and performance in a fatal hit and run auto accident at Rice and Geranium.

Sergeant Gregory M. Lind
Sergeant Gregory H. Kuehl
Sergeant Darryl E. Schmidt
Sergeant Brook Schaub
Officer Samuel C. Ballard
Officer Rondle K. Townsend

For the investigation, surveillance, recovery of money/evidence and the apprehension of the suspect, in the robbery of a bank in downtown Saint Paul.

continued

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Medals of Commendation

OCTOBER
continued

Sergeant Joseph P. Stiles

*For taking actions outside his job description to gather information which played a pivotal role in solving the homicides of five children.*Officer Howard J. Swintek
Officer Bradley K. Jacobsen
Officer Bruce R. Oliver
Officer David A. Clemens*For an impressive level of cooperation, team work, organizational skill, determination, good judgement and attention to duty in solving two armed robberies of a gas station/convenience store.***NOVEMBER**

Officer Mitchell R. Schuck

*For his initiative and courageous actions in disarming a suicidal man.***DECEMBER**Officer Donald R. Chouinard
Officer Constance L. Bennett*Officers heard several shots being fired, investigated and found a large crowd and a suspect running away. The suspect was pursued and taken into custody without injury. The suspect's gun was recovered a short distance away and the suspect was positively identified.*

Sergeant Colleen M. Luna

While processing the crime scene of a triple homicide, removed latent fingerprints from a toilet seat which provided evidence of the suspects presence at the scene. When confronted with the evidence, the murder suspect provided the details of the crime.

Sergeant John M. Culhane

Pursued and apprehended four aggravated assault suspects despite being in plain clothes and in an unmarked car. Singlehandedly held the suspects at gun-point and conducted a cursory weapons search, recovering important evidence.

HONOREES

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Letters of Recognition

JANUARY Officer Shawn Campbell
Officer William Kraus

For their extra efforts while assisting two families living in a duplex with no heat when the outside temperature was -3 degrees.

FEBRUARY Officer Carl Schwartz
Officer Michael Simmons

For alert actions and proper procedures that resulted in the arrest of three suspects of a home invasion robbery.

MARCH Sergeant Joseph Younghans

For professionalism while investigating suspects arrested in Minneapolis for possession of property stolen in Saint Paul. Sergeant Younghans' efforts resulted in the identification and arrest of individuals involved in numerous robberies in multiple jurisdictions. Three of these robberies occurred in Saint Paul.

Officer Gary L. Minnie

For professionalism in the investigation of a robbery in which the detailed suspect information obtained enabled other squads to identify and arrest the suspect.

Officer Steven J. Frazer
Officer Timothy S. Flynn

For professionalism and attention to duty in assisting a fellow officer in the arrest of an armed suspect. Additionally, these officers associated the suspect with a prior robbery resulting in his prosecution for the prior incident.

APRIL Telecommunicator Debby Heroff

For dedication to duty in connecting a caller reporting a female being abused with a Telecommunicator who had taken information from another source regarding an abused female. Her decision resulted in the victim being rescued and suspects being arrested for rape and narcotics violations.

Officer Bruce A. Schmidt
Officer Jason A. Brodt

For professionalism demonstrated in making the arrest of an armed suspect in an incident involving terroristic threats. Though the suspect was armed with a knife and a hammer, the Officers chose not to use deadly force, but were able to effect the arrest working in conjunction with a K-9 and using freeze +P to subdue the suspect.

continued

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Letters of Recognition

APRIL
continued

Sergeant Mark A. Nelson
Officer Steven J. Shimek

For professionalism in successfully preventing a suicide. Responding to a call involving an individual attempting suicide on the High Bridge, they quickly established rapport with the individual, thereby de-escalating and resolving a dangerous situation.

Officer Patrick D. Scott
Officer Thomas D. Arnold
Officer Cyril P. Dargay
Officer Michael W. Bratsch

For professionalism and restraint in handling a murder suspect who was resisting arrest. Several times the suspect attempted to take an officer's gun. Collectively, they were able to subdue the suspect and take him into custody without having to resort to deadly force.

MAY Sergeant Heidemarie Hinzman

For actions as a Tour Supervisor when called to assist officers in the arrest of a suspect in a burglary of an officer's home. Upon arrival, Sergeant Hinzman quickly assessed the situation and personally obtained information from the suspect necessary to recover stolen property of significant value.

Officer Sylvia McPeak
Officer Michael McAlpine

For initiative and commitment to duty while assigned to work on a missing 13 year old. These officers identified an extensive number of associates of the missing child and conducted numerous follow up interviews. The information developed was relayed to authorities in Duluth which quickly led to locating the missing 13-year-old and his subsequent return to his family.

JUNE Officer Reynold Renteria

While investigating an incident involving some property in possession of a young adult, he associated this property with that taken the previous day in a burglary reported to him. Officer Renteria questioned the youth and developed sufficient information to arrest him for burglary. The information obtained and the rapport established with the suspect led to him admitting his involvement and being charged with this offense.

continued

HONOREES

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Letters of Recognition

JUNE
*continued*Officer Jeffrey A. Slagerman
Officer Kevin J. Appelwick

In recognition of intelligent and excellent performance of duties when there was a call for a man with a gun and shots fired. Shortly thereafter the suspects in this case were involved in three additional robberies in the immediate area. These officers responded to this situation and determined the likely location of the parties involved. They effected a tactical plan to approach the suspect who had fled with the gun. This action resulted in his apprehension and the recovery of the sawed-off shotgun used in these assaults.

JULY

Officer Joseph A. Chaffee

For conducting self-initiated surveillance in the area of several purse snatches. An individual reported an active purse snatch in which Officer Chaffee interceded. A victim was rescued and the assailant arrested.

AUGUSTVictim Intervention Project Director
Margaret S. McAbee

For her commitment to the families and relatives of homicide victims in the City of Saint Paul. Particularly, her exceptional efforts during and after one case that took several months to solve.

OCTOBER

Sergeant Neil P. Nelson

For skillful interrogation techniques and interoffice cooperation in a fatal hit and run investigation.

Sergeant Robert J. Weston
Sergeant James M. Charmoli
Sergeant Keith Mortenson

For working tirelessly for months conducting a thorough investigation, following leads and interviewing numerous suspects in the homicide investigation of five children.

Sergeant Gerald H. Breyer
Sergeant William A. Snyder
Sergeant Donald Cavanaugh

For an impressive level of cooperation, team work organizational skill, determination, good judgment and attention to duty in solving two armed robberies of a gas station/convenience store.

NOVEMBER

Officer Steven T. Jabs

For his alert observations and brave, intelligent response to a shooting incident near Western and Thomas.